



**COUNTY OF FAUQUIER
PRESS RELEASE**

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For Immediate Release to:

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Fauquier County to Protect Properties and Environment from Running Bamboo

WARRENTON, VIRGINIA – On August 13, 2020, the Fauquier County Board of Supervisors passed two ordinances aimed at protecting property and the environment from running bamboo, an invasive species of bamboo. Bamboo is a fast growing, perennial grass that is found in two varieties: clumping and running. The ordinances target the running variety due to its aggressive and damaging spreading behavior. It is an invasive species known to spread by rhizomes in its root system. It can spread up to fifteen feet per year, encroaching quickly on neighboring properties, resulting in destruction of the natural environment, structures, roads, and walkways. The ordinances' stated purposes are "to preserve and protect private and public property, indigenous plant materials, and property values from the damaging spread of running bamboo grasses." The County cautions residents who choose to plant or maintain running bamboo that they should be aware of its hazards and their responsibilities to both maintain and contain it under the new ordinances.

One of the new ordinances requires landowners whose property contains running bamboo to prevent it from spreading onto other properties and within fifteen feet of a public road or right of way. Employment of effective containment measures such as impenetrable barriers and trenches is required. The second ordinance makes it unlawful for landowners to allow the overgrowth of vegetation including grass, weeds, and other foreign growth, which includes running bamboo, on their property. If a landowner refuses to remedy the overgrowth after notice from the County, the County may have it cut and record a lien against the property for the remediation expenses. This ordinance does not apply to agriculturally zoned land or active farming operations. Violations of either ordinance may result in the imposition of civil penalties against the property owners.

Paul S. McCulla, Fauquier County Administrator, stated that the County is developing a database of local contractors that are willing to assist property owners

with the removal of an existing stand of running bamboo on their property. He advised that this information, along with bamboo abatement practices, will be posted on the County Government's website in the near future. "Hopefully, these ordinances will serve as a deterrent to the planting of any additional running bamboo without effective containment measures in place. In the meantime, we will work with property owners who are genuinely trying to abate an existing running bamboo problem on their property by providing information about effective bamboo abatement practices and, for those who need professional assistance, a list of local contractors from which they can choose to purchase services." Mr. McCulla also stated that the County's website will also soon be updated with a contact telephone number for reporting stands of nuisance bamboo.

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